

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Alex Zaffaroni
Alza
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Non-absorbable polymers

Have you pondered how difficult it may be to anticipate the eventual selection of microbial flora that will degrade the polymer carrier, or modify it, or release the attached "gustaphore" or chromophore or what have you?

This is likely to complicate the toxicology more than the primary efficacy; and with ^{new} polymers in widespread, non-vital uses, there will be special concerns about allergenicity.

If a given complex becomes widely used, the spread of adapted bacteria from person to person will accelerate the selection.

Agar might be examined as a possible counter example to my concern (or as a carrier already widely used and relied upon).

Cyclamate was originally believed to be nonabsorbable. The absorption of cyclohexylamine is almost surely a byproduct of gut flora that do become adapted to this 'nutrient'. (Simpler modifications of cyclamate might already solve the problem!)

Good luck,

PROFESSOR JOSHUA LEDERBERG
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305